

3024-012

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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Moscow

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1. [redacted] the position of the Jews was particularly bad in Moscow as of late 1950. There was scarcely any chance for a Jew, particularly if he had a Jewish name, to find skilled employment in any institution or enterprise, and even those employed could not be sure of their places. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

2. Despite this situation, there had been a considerable movement of Jews to Moscow from the small towns, where they could not find work and did not even feel sure of their lives. Most of the Jews who came to Moscow after the war from the small towns had gone into "business". That is to say, they obtained clothing, fancy goods, and similar stocks on commission from the Promoters and sold them from a booth or took a stand in the market. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- [redacted] it was possible to make a good living in this way and to make "arrangements" with the managers of the organizations that supplied the goods. There was large-scale fraud in most institutions, enterprises, and factories. If individuals were caught, they went to prison for a period of years; but this fact did not prevent others from doing the same thing and from talking about it. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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[redacted] during October 1950 65 persons had been arrested at the ZIS factory, including 15 Jews.

3. While no man would open his mouth on political matters, even to his best friend, the general position of the Jews in the USSR and the attitude of the Soviets toward them was freely discussed.

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4. As an example of the living conditions [redacted] the quarters of one family comprising three adults. The house was old and neglected, and the stairs dark and dirty. The room was small,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by 4 meters, with two beds in the accepted Russian-Jewish style of 30 years ago, a small table, part of a sideboard, and other household goods, but everything was neat and tidy. The room was one-quarter of a four-room apartment; each of the other three sections was occupied by a family of Russian gentiles. Relations with the other families were normal, mainly because of the wife's conciliatory attitude. The wife continued to attend the synagogue.

Kharkov

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5. [redacted] the number of Jews in the town had been increasing again in late 1950.

[redacted] Kharkov served as an extermination center for the Ukrainian Jews during the German occupation. A large engineering works near Kharkov served as a death camp, and all the Jews in the town were taken there, except for a few with either special qualifications or influence who managed to escape. Jews from the small towns in the neighborhood also were brought there and killed. According to local estimates, several hundred thousand Jews were killed there.

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[redacted] relations were strained between Jews and gentiles in the Ukraine and that there was discrimination against Jews in every way.

6. The number of Jews in important government positions was dwindling steadily, and the number of Jewish unemployed was relatively high. The Jews were employed mainly as tailors, other needlecraft workers, shoemakers, barbers, and watchmakers. A very small number drove taxis, but there were no Jews driving heavy vehicles.

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7. [redacted]

[redacted] The sons of Jews were considered by the Soviets to be Jews although their mothers may have been Russian gentiles and they may have received no Jewish education.

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8. [redacted]

9. [redacted] acute anti-Semitism in the small towns was producing a strong movement of Jews to the larger cities and also to Kharkov. The number of Jews in Kharkov was growing daily, and migration was also the reason for the large number of Jewish unemployed.

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[redacted] The Jews in the small towns did not seem to know that the situation was just as bad in Kharkov and that they could not find work simply because they were Jewish.

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10. There were Jews in Kharkov who continued to receive letters and even money from relatives abroad, but only a few letters out of many hundred were arriving.

Baltic States

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14. In 1940, many Jews were exiled to Siberia for having at some time belonged to the Zionist movement, among them businessmen and manufacturers. At the end of the war a large number of these returned to Riga and Dvinsk. In 1950 these persons were sent back to Siberia.
15. The Riga Jews were very much afraid of a war, for they saw themselves surrounded by a sea of hatred, though the population itself was not overly faithful to the Soviet regime. The Jews had not the slightest doubt that in the event of a war they would be forced to move once more. The Soviet authorities disliked them as a group which had many family connections with the West, while at the same time much of the Latvian population was hostile toward them. No Jew who had at any time been a member of a Zionist organization was eligible for one of the well-paid higher-grade government positions.

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